

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL MEMORANDUM

HB 2257 - SB 2190

March 2, 2020

SUMMARY OF ORIGINAL BILL: Requires an injured worker, subject to workers' compensation coverage, whose treating physician has determined that such worker be referred to a specialist, be provided with a panel of specialists, rather than such panel only be provided upon the employer's request.

Establishes a minimum period of 180 days for an injured worker to request additional benefits following such worker reaching maximum medical improvement.

Lowers the minimum impairment rating, from 10 percent to 9 percent, for increased benefit eligibility in extraordinary cases.

Deletes requirement that a full and final hearing of the Court of Workers' Compensation be provided to an employee who has filed a claim against an employer for workers' compensation benefits no more than 60 days after the notice of hearing has been filed.

FISCAL IMPACT OF ORIGINAL BILL:

NOT SIGNIFICANT

IMPACT TO COMMERCE OF ORIGINAL BILL:

Increase Business Expenditures – Exceeds \$10,000/FY20-21 and Subsequent Years

SUMMARY OF AMENDMENT (015709): Deletes and replaces language in the original bill to effectively delete the language which would require an injured worker, subject to workers' compensation coverage, whose treating physician has determined that such worker be referred to a specialist, be provided with a panel of specialists, rather than such panel only be provided upon the employer's request and also deletes language which would lower the minimum impairment rating, from 10 percent to 9 percent, for increased benefit eligibility in extraordinary cases and

FISCAL IMPACT OF BILL WITH PROPOSED AMENDMENT:

Unchanged from the original fiscal note.

Assumption for the bill as amended:

- Authorizing a minimum time period for a worker having reached maximum medical improvement is estimated to have no significant impact upon state government.
- Deleting the requirement of a full and final hearing before the Court of Workers' Compensation no more than 60 days after the notice of hearing has been filed is not assumed to result in a reduced number of total hearings by such Court and will have no significant impact upon state government.

IMPACT TO COMMERCE WITH PROPOSED AMENDMENT:

NOT SIGNIFICANT

Assumption for the bill as amended:

- This legislation is estimated to have no significant impact on commerce or jobs in this state.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Krista Lee Carsner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

/jdb